

The Arizona Approach for Assessing Non-UASI Counties

Progress toward Meeting NECP Goal Two

Background

The National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) is the Nation's first strategic plan to improve emergency response communications. The Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) at US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) developed the NECP in cooperation with federal departments and agencies, state, local, and tribal governments, emergency response providers and the private sector. The vision of the NECP is to ensure emergency response personnel at all levels of government and across all disciplines, can communicate as needed, on demand and as authorized through improvements in communications operability, interoperability and continuity nationwide.

The NECP sets forth 3 key goals for improved interoperability, operability, and continuity of communications as follows:

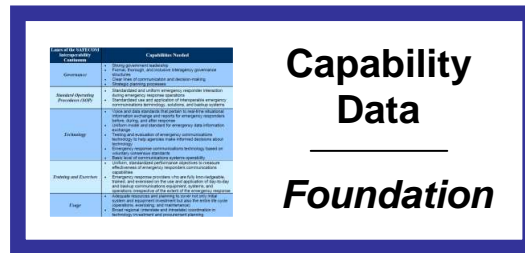
- Goal 1 - By 2010, 90 percent of all high risk urban areas designated within the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) are able to demonstrate response level emergency communications within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies
- Goal 2 - By 2011, 75 percent of non-UASI jurisdictions are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies
- Goal 3 - By 2013, 75 percent of all jurisdictions are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications within three hours, in the event of a significant incident as outlined in national planning scenarios.

Emergency Communications is defined by the NECP as the ability of emergency responders to exchange information via data, voice and video, as authorized to complete their missions. Response level emergency communications is defined by the NECP as the capacity of individuals with primary operational leadership responsibility to manage resources and make timely decisions during an incident involving multiple agencies, without technical or procedural communication impediments.

NECP Goal Two Measurement

OEC is requesting that each state measure (a) capabilities and (b) performance to demonstrate Goal Two compliance. OEC has developed a capability questionnaire for purposes of documenting and reporting county level capability data. OEC has also developed a web based tool for measuring county level performance data.

OEC is requesting that each state document their process or methodology for using these tools to measure meeting NECP Goal Two. Arizona must submit our measurement methodology as part of our 2010 SCIP Implementation Report. (Due July 2010)



Documenting NECP Goal Two Capabilities (Proposal)

- The National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) required capabilities data will be collected as part of the annual Target Capabilities Assessment (TCA) update conducted by the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS)
 - Use of existing structure will reduce burden on local agencies
 - Using 2010 TCA will allow Arizona to get a head start on documenting capabilities
- The Public Safety Interoperable Communications Office (PSIC) will extract the county level capabilities data from the communications portion of the TCA for inclusion in the annual SCIP Implementation Report.
- The Public Safety Communications Advisory Commission (PSCC) will review and approve the final capabilities reports for inclusion in the 2011 SCIP Implementation Report.

Timeline: *(Estimates based on 2009 TCA timeline, subject to change)*

April – May 2010: PSIC Office solicits comments on proposed assessment methodology

June - July 2010: TCA Data Collection

July 2010: Arizona approach documented in 2010 SCIP Implementation Report and submitted to OEC

September 2010: Final TCA Report Issued

October 2010: PSIC Office extracts county level interoperable communications capability data from TCA

November 2010: OEC publishes final capabilities reporting tool and PSIC Office determines if additional capabilities need to be documented

January – April 2011: Additional capability data collected (only if needed)

May 2011: PSCC reviews and approves capability data for inclusion in 2011 SCIP Implementation Report

July 2011: Capabilities data included in 2011 SCIP Implementation Report submitted to OEC



Demonstrating NECP Goal Two Performance (Proposal)

- Performance will be assessed on a county by county basis in Arizona
- Each Non-UASI county will submit 2 or 3 possible planned events or exercises that could be used to assess their performance
- The PSIC Office will review and publish a list of events or exercises to be assessed statewide (one per county)
- A Point of Contact (POC) for each non-UASI county will be designated by the county to coordinate local performance measurement efforts
- The PSIC Office will help counties with pre-planning for the selected events and exercises
- The PSIC Office will observe and/or help with the selected events and exercises
- As part of the after action process, a session will be conducted by the PSIC Office with local staff to complete the OEC performance reporting tool
- PSCC will review and approve final performance reports for inclusion in the 2011 SCIP Implementation Report

Timeline: *(Estimates)*

April – May 2010: PSIC Office solicits comments on proposed assessment methodology

July 2010: Arizona approach documented in 2010 SCIP Implementation Report and submitted to OEC

September 2010: Non-UASI County POCs identified by the counties; Counties submit 2 or 3 possible events or exercises for assessment

October 2010: PSIC Office publishes lists of events or exercises to be assessed (one per county)

November 2010: OEC publishes final performance reporting tool

November 2010 – May 2011: Non-UASI counties conduct performance assessment and after action sessions with PSIC Office support

May 2011: PSCC reviews and approves assessments for inclusion in 2011 SCIP Implementation Report

July 2011: Performance Assessment data included in 2011 SCIP Implementation Report submitted to OEC